

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 AID-20 CU-05 DRC-01 /117 W

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R 200710Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3951

INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE 3877

AMCONSUL MEDAN

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

UNCLAS JAKARTA 10205

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, ID

SUBJ: HARIMAN SIREGAR TRIAL: FIFTH SESSION

REF: JAKARTA 10134

1. FIFTH SESSION SIREGAR TRIAL AUGUST 19 LASTED SIX HOURS, FIRST FULL SESSION OF TRIAL TO DATE. SESSION ALMOST ENTIRELY DEVOTED TO CONTINUED QUESTIONING OF SIREGAR BY PRESIDING JUDGE, WITH BRIEF QUESTIONS ALSO POSED BY OTHER JUDGES, PROSECUTOR AND DEFENSE LAWYER. FOLLOWING BASED ON PRESS REPORTS.

2. JUDGE'S QUESTIONS CONCERNED UNIVERSITY INDONESIA (UI) DISCUSSION GROUP ACTIVITIES BETWEEN MID-1972 AND 1973, EVENTS SURROUNDING ISSUANCE OF UI STUDEN COUNCIL PETITION OCTOBER 24, 1973 AND SUBSEQUENT ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF PETITION DEMANDS, AND EVENTS LEADING UP TO ARRIVAL OF JAPANESE PM TANAKA JANUARY 14 AND RIOTS JANUARY 15, 1974.

3. SIREGAR MAINTAINED THAT PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION GROUP WAS EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON SOCIAL/ECONOMIC/POLITICAL MATTERS, UNCLASSIFIED

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WITHOUT DRAWING OF SPECIFIC OR ACTION-ORIENTED CONCLUSIONS.

SIREGAR DEFENDED OCTOBER 24 PETITION ON OCCASION OF COMMEMORATION OF 1928 "YOUTH PLEDGE" AS COMMON TYPE OF ACTIVITY FOR STUDENTS SINCE 1966 PERIOD, IN WHICH STUDENTS AS "PIONEERS OF REFORM" EXPRESSED THEIR HOPES FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN NATIONAL LIFE. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONING, HE DEFENDED PROCESS OF FORMULATING PETITION AS CONSISTENT WITH STUDENT COUNCIL PROCEDURES. HE CONFIRMED THAT PETITION CALLED FOR CHANGE IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY AWAY FROM EMPHASIS ON GNP-GROWTH WHICH ONLY SHARPENED GAPS BETWEEN ECONOMIC GROUPS, BUT DENIED THAT PETITION WAS TO BE SUPPORTED BY USE OF FORCE AND SAID THAT IF PETITION NOT ACCEPTED NO REACTION WAS PLANNED. SIREGAR ALSO DEFENDED HIS ACTIONS PRIOR TO AND DURING TANAKA VISIT, SAYING HE HAD OPPOSED DISTRIBUTION OF INFLAMMATORY POSTERS AND USE OF FORCE BUT THAT HE HAD SUPPORTED STUDENT DELEGATIONS AND ASSEMBLIES WHOSE PURPOSE WAS TO "STRENGTHEN GOVERNMENT POSITION" AND REMIND JAPAN THAT INDONESIA POSSESSED NATIONAL PRIDE AND REFUSED TO BE "ENSLAVED" BY JAPANESE SEARCH FOR PROFITS.

4. SIREGAR REPEATEDLY DENIED THAT HE HAD MADE STATEMENTS ABOUT NEED FOR USE OF FORCE OR FOR OVERTHROW OF SUHARTO. HE ALSO DENIED HE HAD MADE ANY PLANS FOR MASS ACTIONS AT TIME OF TANAKA VISIT.

5. SESSION WAS MARKED BY NUMEROUS DISAGREEMENTS BETWEEN SIREGAR AND PRESIDING JUDGE OVER DEFINITION OF TERMS, PARTICULARLY WHETHER PHRASE "DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY" USED IN OCTOBER 24 PETITION REFERRED TO BASIC NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY (JUDGE'S INTERPRETATION) OR IMPLEMENTATION OF DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (SIREGAR'S POSITION). JUDGE WARNED SIREGAR AT SEVERAL POINTS TO MAKE SPECIFIC REPLIES TO QUESTIONS IN ACCORDANCE TO COURT RULES, AND ON ONE OCCASION INSTRUCTED HIM NOT TO INTERRUPT BEFORE JUDGE HAD FINISHED SPEAKING.

6. AS SESSION ADJOURNED, DEFENSE AGAIN REQUESTED AND JUDGE IN RESPONSE ORDERED THAT SIREGAR BE PERMITTED TO VISIT HIS SICK WIFE AND FATHER.

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7. PRESS REPORTS OF EXCHANGES AT FIFTH SESSION SOMEWHAT MORE LENGTHY AND DETAILED THAN PREVIOUS COVERAGE, BUT LEAD STORIES MOVING TOWARDS BOTTOM OF FRONT PAGES. SOME REPORTS NOTED THAT CROWD AT COURT WAS SOMEWHAT SMALLER THAN ON PREVIOUS DAYS.
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